

Opening Statement
By
Senator Sam Blowback
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
Hearing on Human Cloning

Welcome and thank you.

Today, we will be holding a hearing on the important issue of human cloning.

As our country debates the issue of human cloning, as well as those issues which surround it, I think it is helpful to engage in a similar dialogue at the national level. The issue of human cloning forces us to debate first principles – most particularly, the meaning of human life, and whether that life is a person or a piece of property.

The importance of the issue of human cloning, simply cannot be underestimated. It is an issue that touches on our humanity in a way few issues have – and it does so at a time, when we have the unique ability to resolve the issue properly not only for our own country; but also to lead the way for the world.

I recently introduced legislation to ban human cloning, Senate Bill S. 790, which has been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

I believe there is a deep concern in America, and the world in general, with the use of this technology for the purposes of creating humans. In fact, according to a recent Time/CNN poll, 90% of Americans thought that it was a bad idea to clone human beings.

I believe, along with Congressman Weldon, and many Americans share this belief, that efforts to create human beings by cloning mark a new and decisive step toward turning human reproduction into a manufacturing process in which children are made in laboratories to preordained specifications.

Creating cloned live-born children begins by creating cloned human embryos, a process which some also propose as a way to create embryos for research or as sources of cells and tissues for possible treatment of other humans.

The prospect of creating new human life solely to be exploited and destroyed in this way has been condemned on moral grounds by many as displaying a profound disrespect for life, and recent scientific advances indicate that there are fruitful and

morally unproblematic alternatives to this approach.

There is no need for this technology to ever be used with humans; whether for reproductive purposes or for destructive research purposes.

I look forward to a good full debate on this issue not only in this committee but in the full Senate as well. I think we are faced with a wonderful opportunity to fully address this issue and to pass meaningful legislation.

Our panels present a wide variety of view points on this issue.

During the hearing today we will hear philosophical, religious, ethical, and scientific views expressed. We will also hear from

those who advocate for patient research, as well as those who represent the biotech industry – an industry that stands to profit substantially – if they are allowed to undertake human cloning research.

Finally, I have a unanimous consent request that the statements from various organizations expressing their opinion on the issue of human cloning be submitted to the record.

We look forward to everyone's testimony.